

REMARKS

The Office Action indicates dependent claim 30 has patentable subject matter. And the Examiner verbally confirmed (in an informal phone conversation with the undersigned on 2/15/07) that claim 30 would be allowable if recast in independent form.

Accordingly, this Amendment cancels claim 30 and adds its limitation to base claim 25. In doing so, the term "polymeric network" in the limitation of canceled claimed 30 is changed to "polymer" where it is added to claim 25 to ensure consistent claim language. Base claim 25 is therefore now allowable.

Rejected claims 26-29, 37 and 39-43 have been canceled. All remaining claims depend from now-allowable base claim 25, and are therefore now patentable over the prior art. The objections of claims 25 and 34 over antecedent basis have been overcome by deleting the word "the" where appropriate in both claims. The word "preferentially" has been deleted in claim 34 as the Examiner suggests.

Therefore, the application is now be in condition for allowance, and allowance is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Mitchell Rose

Mitchell Rose (Reg. No. 47,906)

JONES DAY

901 Lakeside Ave.

Cleveland, OH 44114

(216)586-7094

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